Keywords
International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments
Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of Justice were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of Justice shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of Justice.
A Message for the New Year

By PRESIDENT DAVID DUBINSKY

We are greeting this New Year—1937—a larger family in the ILGWU than we had when it was founded—1933—came up on the horizon.

We did not rest on our oars in 1936. True to our traditional policy never to stand still, we have gone ahead into new territories and gained thousands of new members, as our records attest.

We consolidated our position in a great many branches of our industry. Early in 1936, we carried through to a successful conclusion a wide movement in the dress industry of New York involving a hundred thousand workers which, strengthened the union's hold in that vital industry, brought about a great improvement of working conditions and laid the foundation for more adequate and equitable pay rates.

We have made a serious beginning in the organization of the workers in the cotton garment industry, the least protected and most exploited sector of the needle trades. Along with this movement, we have inaugurated a Union Label for women's cotton garment apparel, which is making under the circumstances, a very encouraging headway and is gaining a foothold in the various cotton garment markets.

We have continued with determined effort to unionize the "outsider" zones surrounding our main markets all over the country and to round up the "runaway" shops and bring them under union work terms as a matter of security for established labor standards in the bigger centers of our industry. All this has cost a great amount of effort and expense, but we regard it as a wonderful investment and safeguard for the larger interest of all of our members and of our industry.

Accorded by the same principle and belief that the labor movement must strive and prosper unless it is kept in a new industrial environment and situation, that in order to avoid stagnation it must always look forward, we have taken steps to reduce the historic controversies which is still staking against the American labor movement to its very depths, with those who are fighting for an industrial form of union organization in the mass-production industries, as against those who cling exclusively to the cost union idea and practice.

We have taken our stand not because we have ever entertained a desire to leave our old home—the American Federation of Labor—but because we believe that it has become our task to fight for a broader and more inclusive union that will benefit the Federation and will benefit not only the thousands of members, but the millions of workers who are today in the modern mass-production industries. And we expect and hope that some day this situation will be a thing of the past, and that the rank and file of the union can coalesce in a common policy of helping to bring about an eventual concentration of the remaining forces within the labor movement and to end the tragedy of a split line.

We have joined hands in the past year with a great many international unions all over the land in a concerted political effort, for the first time in our history, in practically every State where we have organizations, to insure the reelection of President Roosevelt.

While we believe, and without springing into action, our members and leaders have gone into the political field making converts and building sentiment for independent labor political action. We have been rewarded with the glorious satisfaction of an epoch-making victory for our candidates.

We have helped, together with other labor and progressive forces, to hang over our defeated President a云.

(Continued on Page 2)
Important Gains
In New Pact With
Printz-Biederman

(Continued from Page 1)
are added to the new agreement,
represent important new benefits for
the workers. Among these are the
following:

Check studies when the workers
for the prices and for their cloth-
factory. The study must have the
approval of worker-committees.

- Workers are granted a rise in
each new shift ad infinitum.

- Time in the position has been
higher, bringing rate pays set up in the
agreement.

- No reduction of wages during the
life of the agreement.

- Minimum and average wages now in force in the
Cleveland market are part of the
agreement.

- Payment for holidays for place
workers as well as weaver workers.

- Extra pay for duplicates and
same pay.

- Price committee members to be
renumerated by the company for
time lost in setting prices.

- No worker to be called for
less than a full day's work, except
special arrangements with the
Union.

- Eligible facilities of work
between inside and outside shops
and within individual shops.

- The full rate of pay shall be
nullified by agreement for the payment by its contractors of taxes payable by its contractors under the tax and withholding
laws.

- The agreement not to manufactu-
are for any firm against which the
Union has declared a strike.

- Agreement to cease all new
strikes. A complete copy of the
agreement is printed on this page.

- Agreement to cease all new
takes are submitted to the


Wage Hour Victory
In Seattle Lockout

By Sam Schatz
Manager

After a seven-day blackout we have
just signed an agreement with the
Sticky Cigarettes Company
providing for a 15 per cent in-
crease in wages, a three-cent
and a half-hour week, and a four-
ten dollar weekly minimum wage.
This marks an advance from from
four and forty-three hours per
week.

The victory is due to the unity
of the girls and the fine spirit
they displayed.

The manufacturers' association
had very good reason to inspire
the lockout. Just as they anticipat-
ed, the successful organization of
this shop means the beginning of
the end for their anti-union shops
and anti-union policies. The news
of the deacons' victory has already
gone over the grape-vines of
the city and this has kept the very
few workers in the shops at the
present time it has already
destroyed the fear of the lockout.

By the time this is printed, we
will have launched an organiza-
tion campaign which we believe
will finally convince the local
manufacturers that a fourth reason
will mean serious losses to them.

Small Shops

Calling Up

They have already received a
letter from our office telling
them to start work to meet
their problems. Should they reject
our offer they have no alternative
but to strike. The other shops in
the cloth trade have already
reached the point at which they
will not stand the threat of a lockout.

The smaller manufacturers are
already beginning to realize that
they are merely being used by the
larger manufacturers to protect
their profits while they continue
to dominate the market, and there
are strong indications that the
time is near when they will
realize that they are locked in a
clawing war among themselves.

A Message for the New Year

(Continued from Page 1)
date which calls for sustained and wider social, labor
and progressive reform and legislation. We have helped to
defeat reaction and to entrench the forces for progress
and the improvement of the lot of the common people
of America.

While industrial conditions, in general, are improving
rapidly, it cannot yet be said that our own workers have
benefited greatly. In many of our markets, notably in
the cloth and knit industry of the Pacific Coast
markets, our men and women have experienced in 1937
poor seasons and lack of work.

In the hope that the conditions for better work
seasons in 1937 in both the cloth and dress trades will
improve. Our workers badly need improved earnings and
shorter work; they badly need a touch of that prosperity
to which they have been anxiously looking for a long time.

In this spirit of hope and confidence, conscious of
our strength and determined to use it for the continued
improvement of our organization and for the elevation of the
working and living conditions of our great and growing membership,
I wish you all a happy and abundant New Year.

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INTERNATIONAL CALLS
Industries on Plans
For Congress Session

Dubinsky Invites Associates to Meet With Union,
Jan. 4, and Help Formulate Legislative
Measures

Carrying into execution a decision of the
Executive Board, President Dubinsky has
invited the executives, directors and local
officials of affiliated labor unions to meet
with the leaders of the A.F. of L. in
Washington in order to unify behind a legis-
lative program for presentation at the
convened session of Congress.

The letter from President Dubinsky, in
addition to stating the purpose of the confer-
ence as the “finishing up of all the con-
vincing work that has been done during the
adoption of legislative measures
considered necessary in the interests of the
umnumbcrs employed in the diffferent
industries, says that the conference will
be

New Control Method For
"Overlapping"

The New York CIO and the Service
Joins Board. Unions have agreed on a
new method of controls solve
the problems arising from ‘over-
lapping’ in the industry. The basis
of the new method of control fol-

Local 91 Sets a $30,000
Drive on Open Shops

Building Strikes Part of Tactics To Bring All Open
Shops into Union — Workers Ready

The Executive Board of Local 91 has set aside a special organiza-
tional fund of $30,000 and made plans for an intensive drive on non-
union firms scattered all over the country.

Brother Harry Greenberg,
local manager, announced that
planning had already started
on building strikes since it is
only an occasional building which
houses one or two non-
union establishments.

This drive, he said, is in addi-
tion to the normal drive for or-
ganization and has for its purpose the
finalization of the unionization of the
industry. It is

Prophets of Labor’s Political Destiny

Three Presidents, Past of the Delegation of 6 Labor Party Deputys, Photographed at Grand Central
Station yesterday by the New York Democratic Official. From Left to Right President Dubinsky of the ILGWU, President Hoffman of the Amalgamated. On Left is Louis Adolph, First Vice-President of the delegation to Albany As,
Chairman of the American Labor Party.

Business Agent Resigns
Charged With Asking
Bottles for Charity Ads

No Reflection on Union Integrity of Morris Alloviz,
Who Violated Decision of G.E.B.

Cloak Recovery Bd.
Meets January 12

Many ILGWU leaders in the
trade industry will attend a
non-partisan meeting of the Na-
tional Consumer and Civic Indus-
try Federation at the Hotel New
Yorker, January 12, and 13.

The business schedule will be
held at 12 New York Street, with an
annual meeting at the Hotel New
Yorker.

ILGWU Presses For
New ‘NRA’ at Berry
Washington Meeting

Recommendations by labor of a program for
Congressional action including a 50-hour week bill
which maintains the gains of recovery by
providing purchasing power and re-
employment unemployment were
presented at the meetings of the Council
for Industrial Progress in Wash-
ington, December 30 and 1.

The Council is headed by Mayor George
Bowery.

President Dubinsky, General Ma-
teslender, S. S. Kiech, Jr. of
the S. Y. Cloak Joint Board, Fred
Stein, President of Local Antoni,
and Emil Schickler, and Miss Loretta
Union council presented a large
from the main

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Chairman of the American Labor Party.
In the “Little International”

Vassar College Students Assist
In Poughkeepsie

By Harry Wender, V.P. General Secretary

The progressive and socially-minded students at the Vassar College are taking an active part in the current labor movement. This group of students has shown a remarkable degree of interest in the labor movement. They have been very active in organizing a union for the workers at the nearby Millbrook Paper Mill. The students have been very successful in their efforts. The union has now more than 500 members in its ranks.

Organizing in Bridgeport

By Ida Mecklenburg

Although visitation has been somewhat hampered for a newcomer in the welfare department of the Poughkeepsie ILGWU, it is definitely not yet too late for the group. The students have been very active in organizing the workers at the nearby J. C. Penney Company. They have been successful in enrolling more than 100 workers in the union.

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Three ILGWU Leaders

In Route to Palestine

Vice-President Nagler, Breslaw, Perlmutter

In Delegation

Three ILGWU leaders are on their way to Palestine. They are I. B. Gans, I. B. Glick, and I. B. Greenberg. The leaders are very excited about their trip. They are planning to observe conditions and developments.

The delegation was unanimously elected by the 1500 delegates to the last annual National Labor Committee for Palestine convention in November.

By I. B. Gans, general manager of the N.Y. C & H, 3rd Vice President of the union, and I. B. Greenberg, president of the union.

In addition to the above, the delegation includes I. B. Glick, 3rd Vice President, I. B. Greenberg, president of the union, and I. B. Gans, general manager of the N.Y. C & H. The delegation will be headed by I. B. Gans.

While in Palestine, the delegation will visit all the major cities and will hold meetings with the local union leaders. They will also hold meetings with the local shop stewards and with the local union officials.

The delegation will be accompanied by a number of students from the Vassar College. They will hold meetings with the local students and will also hold meetings with the local union leaders.

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VOICE OF 89” GOES ON NETWORK

"22" Greets Spanish Delegation to U. S.

Members Contribute $3,000 for Victims of Fascist Onslaughts on Heroic Defenders Of Democracy

At one of the most stirring meetings in the annals of the union, Local 22 yesterday greeted a war-goaded delegation from Spain and collected $3,000 for the Trade Union Committee for Saving China for the 

The visit to the American Federation for the

The visit to the American Federation met with enthusiasm from the hundreds of workers who were present.

Rise in Respect

A leukaemic moment was recorded when the 2,000 members that attended every meeting of Manhattan Opera House, Thursday, December 17, were in a minute of silence in respect to the thousands of Spanish workers who have given their lives in defense of Spanish freedom and democracy. Brother Max Rosenthal called for the silent minute of duration.

A resolution declared the contributions solidified in the membership of the workers' brothers workers in Spain was pressed by the call.

This resolution was backed by 350,000 of contributions from employees in shops and individuals. In the story of the destruction of the ships mounted the platform, carrying its contributions in cash. Many of the ships were aggregated by hundreds of additional contributions.

The resolution was,
In Eastern Cotton Garment Area

By Elias Reisberg, V.P., Director Cotton Dress & Miscellaneous Trades Department

Disputes are prevalent throughout the garment industry at this time of the year, but the J. J. porcelain China v. the union work for increased activity after the New Year, and at the same time it has been facing the crucial situation on which the firm's work has already been done.

A result, the Clinton Shirt Co., Clinton, N.J., manufacturer of children's dressing, employing 15, has signed a new agreement.

The strike lasted for all union conditions including a 14th week minimum. The firm has been able to accept applications without the necessity of calling a strike.

In Sumno, D.A., the firm of Theresa Minne, cotton dress contractor employing 50 workers, called out on strike a short time ago. After a few days of picketing the firm was in terms, and signed a new agreement. The strike was under the supervision of the New York Traders' Union.

Removal of the agreement with Groff's & Solamen, silk dress manufacturers of Trenton, N.J., employing 100, was elected last week. The new agreement provides a wage increase of 15 per cent. With the signing of the agreement the workmen of the firm in the shop have had an opportunity to cast accounts and to realize the difference that the year of organization brings. To the great majority of the workers, the union represented wage increase over the year of from 50 to 100 per cent. Those wage increases were brought about through price advancements that enabled those workers, for the first time, to reap directly the fruits of their skill and efficiency.

DALLAS PAPER MOVES AHEAD

"The Dallas Labor's Garment Worker," issue of the Local 115 News, has become a monthly publication. The publication is published by the committee, No. 10, which has been called "Justice," is a bright and timely publication with a strong union message.

Spanish Red Cross Fund

Grace Castagnetta Known to thousands of ILGWU members by her appearance at Unity House, Grace Castagnetta, concert pianist, will appear at the Town Hall, January 9th. She is the music instructor at the Henry Street Settlement and conductor with Van Loon of "The Story of Music."

Praise Katovsky In New Ohio Pact

Katovsky, John, formerly of the ILGWU, has been appointed as a member of the executive board of the Federation of Labor, in the new Ohio pact.

TIE AGAINST THE BOYS' IDEAS

Join Your Classes

More Than 100 Shop Representatives and Organizers Drawn From the Cotton Dress and Miscellaneous Trades Department Gathered in Boston, December 5 and 6, to Lay Plans for a Strong Attack on Low Wages and Shameful Working Conditions Prevailing in Many New England Shops. The Campaign Will Be Prosecuted With Special Emphasis in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
The weekly "Cultural Hour," a new feature instituted recently at Labor Stage, 104 West 23rd Street, under the auspices of the Cultural and Recreational Division of the ILGWU, has been well received by its presenters and audiences alike. The following programs are proposed:

- Mar. 14, 8 p.m., "The Workers and the Movies," by Dr. Frank Kingdon, President, New York University.
- Mar. 21, 8 p.m., "The Jazz Scene," by Harry E. Smith, New York University.
- Mar. 28, 8 p.m., "The Spanish Civil War," by Dr. Frank Kingdon, President, New York University.

The weekly "Cultural Hour" is sponsored by the ILGWU, and admission is free to all union members. The lectures are held every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the Labor Stage, 104 West 23rd Street. For more information, contact Dr. Frank Kingdon, President, New York University.
Local 66 Reports
Splendid Advances

By David Kriegstein

Very prosperous days with a solid and stable outlook are in view for our fellow strikers. The intricacy of the present economic conditions and the driving forces of the times are not to be underestimated.

Typical of our renewed strength is the growth of the Local 66 membership. The striking carpenters and joiners have been actively recruiting new members, and the union's leader, Brother Smith, has been making the rounds, encouraging more workers to join.

The union's financial position is strong, with significant gains in membership and a positive outlook for future growth. This is seen as a testament to the workers' determination and the union's effective leadership.

The success of Local 66 in this period is a result of the commitment of its members and leadership to the principles of solidarity and mutual aid. The union continues to be a driving force in the local labor movement, fighting for the rights and benefits of its members.

Our workers are proud of their achievements and look forward to continued growth and success in the coming months.
ATTENTION!

Having received a complaint that the organization of the Union of Workers, the International Labor Union of Workers, has been under investigation for suspected anti-capitalist activities, the Kings County General Provisional Commission has ordered the immediate closure of the organization. All members of the Kings County General Provisional Commission weredisqualified from participating in the elections. The Kings County General Provisional Commission has ordered that all meetings of the organization be dissolved at the end of the month. This action is taken in the interests of maintaining a fair and democratic process for the selection of union officials and leaders.

ATTENTION!

Mr. Cottier, President of the Local 19 Committee, has announced the dissolution of the union in Kings County. The decision was made after a thorough investigation of the organization's activities. The union will cease to exist as of today.

ATTENTION!

The Local 82 Foreman Decision has been announced. The decision regards a significant victory for Local 82 and opens the door to organizing a large number of workers.

The matter came to the fore when the Workers' Union, as represented by President John Doe, took action against the company for unfair labor practices.

The agreement provides for the formation of a new union, which will take over the management and supervision of the plant and will ensure that the workers will be protected against any future violations of labor laws.

The case was defended by John Doe, President of the Local 205.

All cutters getting below the established minimum wages will be received by the new union. The decision sets the stage for a new era of peace and prosperity for the workers of Local 82.
Labor Dynamics 1936, about to leave us, has been struck by vital industrial conflicts. Yet, enough drama and air have been packed into it to make it one of the most exciting years in contemporary American labor history. Running through the 1936 labor scene two formidable events stand out. One is the upsurge of the movement for industrial unionism, molded into the Committee for Industrial Organization, which swept into fold several of the biggest units of the American Federation of Labor and has left all split the Letter in twain. The second is the New Unionism of organized labor as a potent political factor, in the form of Labor’s Non-Partisan League in nearly every State of the Union, and in the American Labor Party in New York. The mighty clash between the forces of caste unionism and of industrial organization—for the mass-production industries—it still on. Suspension of the CIO affiliates, of which our Union is one, by the Executive Council of the Federation, and later upheld by the Tampa convention, could not solve or end it. The American labor movement is still faced with the elimination of every vestige of a craft approach. Power—money, votes, all concerns—however, remains a possibility. But it, obviously, will have to be a peace founded on realistic, mutual, instead of iron and exchange of citizenship. Through all these tragic and bitter months of the past year, the ILGWU, from its earliest days a loyal and staunch ally of the AFL, and now a full-fledged, through the voice of President Dukemian and through its General Executive Board, such contribution that would include the recognition, if not full practice, of the fact that the millions of mass-production industries will not be organized except on the basis of industrial unionism.

...Labor has definitely entered the political arena as an independent force, in 1936. No clear-visioned observer of both surface and subterranean currents in American life can fail to realize this.

Whether Labor’s Non-Partisan League was actually a deciding factor in the election of President Roosevelt is beside the point. It is beyond cavil that its dynamic drive was invaluable in the winning of such pivotal States as Illinois, Pennsylvania, Missouri and New York and Massachusetts. Most valuable, however, from the viewpoint of independent political activity of labor, is that it has for the first time actually welded together hundreds of thousands of trade unions and their allies into a national league for a definite political purpose. The strength and the effectiveness developed by the Non-Partisan League during the past campaign have in a large measure reflected the rather monotonous chant that workers in America would not and could not unite into a political formation of their own.

The League’s marvelous achievement nationally may be seized upon by many of its State branches to form labor parties at once, and may be not. In New York, certainly, the outlook for the American Labor Party looks up bright and holding a genuine promise. On the other hand, there may be wisdom in biding time and waiting watchfully for the development of that “natural alignment” of progressive labor forces in America to which the organizers of the Non-Partisan League time and again had referred in declaring their purpose. In any event, the ice of labor spirit was definitely cracked in 1936. Labor has stepped forth politically and has done well.

Cotton Garment Drive Advances Despite the ILGWU’s failure, in full vigor, less than two years ago to unionize the cotton garment industry, it had no ill effect on setting in the pace of the “good old” and an unchecked work-week and arbitrary work-pay. Nevertheless, it could not now be denied that despite setbacks, obstacles and unholy odds in many places, the ILGWU has made some headway in the cotton garment industry. We have met with reverses in Decatur, in Dallas; we had, and we have, courage and assurance we’ll come through this as we have in Pimlico, Mass., and we have scored just as impressive gains in Texas, Illinois, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, upstate New York and in New Jersey. What is most important, we have achieved the raising of the wages in this industry. Our ILGWU campaign have been decided on the rise in recent months.

Cottoning above, all has been cleared up during this cotton garment campaign. The workers in the cotton apparel factories, despite their strangeness to trade unionism, are no less responsive to its message when rightly approached than the workers in any other branch of the needle trades. We may not, therefore, come to the next convention of the ILGWU, in May in Montreal, with an air-tight organization to meet the entire cotton garment industry, but there is good reason to hope that a substantial part of these hitherto unorganized workers will by that time be part and parcel of the great ILGWU family.

Just a Little Strike of the Daubey Garments Strike of the Daubey Garments is now located in Dallas but formerly of San Antonio, Texas, in a matter which we should like to commend. In spirit and in method it has attempted to carry out our program of organized strike of the Daubey Garments Strike of San Antonio in May and came to an end six months later in Dallas, in November. The girls, nearly all of them of Mexican origin, joined the Union because their work conditions literally were a prison. The outlook for victory, after the first month or two, looked nearly hopeless. There were court restraining orders, harassing of pickets, and all sorts of threats. The police and the courts.

But the girls stood their ground and fought. For so read, that after the month the firm decided to move to Dallas. In Dallas the Union had fought and lost a battle move to Dallas, and it was deemed “safe” ground. Now the strike is over, and the Union moved the factory to Dallas and the battle was won. Two more months of striking followed, until the struggle finally came to an end, on excellent terms, with the aid of the ILGWU members of the defeated Dallas local.

Just a little page of everyday union struggle this extremely small strike has been written on this page fairly drips with sacrifice, pain, endurance and glory. These little underpaid and overworked San Antonio dressmakers, always an object of “natural” exploitation and “synthetic” unionism under our archaic elements in our trades, have by their grit, loyalty and idealism won a warm spot in our hearts.

Taking Care of Sick Members Sick benefits are features of an old-established feature in trade union life. Most of the larger and older international unions in America have sick benefit features of varying degrees of service to their members. In our own Union, many local in the east and mid-industry especially, have for years maintained such organized assistance to sick members and to members afflicted with tuberculosis, in particular.

Now it is reported, Local 22, our New York Dressmakers’ Union and the second largest local in the ILGWU, is making plans to expand its sick benefit feature so as to make it a fully effective and all-covering system for the protection of its members in time of illness. Such a system, as evidenced by the data and statistics collected and collated by Dr. Leo Price through our Union Health Center, can be placed on a scientific basis and made workable.

The trade unions took to supplying health service and sick relief to their members to meet a very real need. In essence, such functions are part of the general community and social services.

This, however, is still a far-off ideal for society as a whole and for community life in the United States in particular. We are still a long way off from even an approach to such a perfect state of affairs with regard to public care of the sick and the disabled. And in the absence of a well-organized system of governmental sick relief and care, it is only logical that other organized groups within the community should undertake to care for the sick within their own groups.

For the trade union it was a natural step to extend health service to its members because a labor union, in the wider sense of its mission, is not merely an agency for strictly economic improvement; but an all-embracing movement of activity which covers, or should cover, a great many of the normal phases of a worker’s life and strive adequately to respond to them. In our own Union, we perceived long ago this wider purpose of its trade unionism. In our Union, we realized many years ago that we owe our members not merely protection in the shop and an opportunity to win shorter hours and better pay but also an opportunity to advance culturally and spiritually — and to seek through the Union outlets for a higher and more satisfactory manner of living.

That’s one of the reasons why our Union has developed such an institution as the Union Health Center along with many other unions and agencies which are intended to lighten the burdens of our members and to offer them aid in a physical as well as a spiritual sense.

The sick benefit systems already in operation in a number of our locals and such as are being formed or expanded now in many; others are as much a part of the legitimate activities and functions of our organizations as any other economic or social function which they perform. There used to be criticisms of former years directed at certain unions, which it was asserted, were laying too much stress on benefit and insurance features and were devoting less attention to industrial and spiritual sides of labor organization. Such criticism, however, cannot be fairly directed at our organizations. Such institutional work as we are doing is a part of the whole scheme of trade unionism without ever overlooking or ignoring any of its other vital collective functions.